

## AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

### Draft Minutes

December 6, 2016

Members Present: Stacey Stearns, Terry Wollen, Susan Mitchell, Jennifer Kaufman (staff), Jeremy Jelliffe

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm

Appointment of Secretary – Jennifer indicated that following Nancy Rawn's resignation from the committee the position of secretary needed to be filled.

Terry moved to nominate Jeremy Jelliffe for secretary and Susan seconded.

Jeremy accepted the nomination and the motion passed unanimously.

The minutes from the September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed. Susan motioned they be accepted. Terry seconded.

### New Business

- a. RFP for Southworth Preserve Lease Site – Jennifer provided background on the acquisition of the parcel and RFP process, and suggested the RFP remain consistent with prior ones. She also explained multiple deed restrictions on the property, which included archeological site preservation prohibiting activities that disturb soil more than 12 inches deep and a lease restriction that requires the land to be licensed to a grower in lieu of a lease. Susan asked about restrictions on irrigation from an adjacent pond and installation of non-permanent structures, and whether the town has produced a public record of town farmland under current use or available for lease. Terry asked about the use of chemicals on the property. Jeremy moved to authorize Jennifer to engage the town attorney to finalize the RFP and license agreement, Terry seconded.
- b. Partnering with CFBA to do a workshop – Jennifer introduced the letter sent from CFBA to all CT Town Ag. Committees. She suggested we consider holding an event for local farmers. Terry suggested the event focus on heritage breeds of livestock. Jeremy suggested the event take place in early summer.
- c. 2017 Farmers Forum – Jennifer asked the committee to set a date for the event. Stacey suggested mid-March and agreed to look into room availability in the UCONN Floriculture building.

### Old Business

- a. Collaboration with EDC – Business Visitation Surveys – Terry reported on his survey activity. Stacey also reported on her survey work and asked the committee if anyone is interested in completing remaining surveys, Terry offered to help as needed.

### Communications

- a. Meeting with NRCS regarding Conservation Plans – Jennifer has a meeting with members of NRCS to discuss conservation land management plans to determine, how the laws will affect Mansfield farmers, and a menu of

available land management options to bring Mansfield farms into compliance.

- b. Notice of Zoning Violation – Jennifer introduced a letter from the Zoning board regarding an agricultural-related violation. She is looking into it and will keep the committee updated.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 Jeremy motioned, Susan seconded.